rates be allowed limited to the actual railway freight. Where FCI's rates and rail-head is not there, State Government rates may be allowed.

Government received a series of representations from different State Governments including from Government of Gujarat to allow reimbursement of the actual minimum cost of transport. Considering their problems, it was decided to revise the guidelines for transportation charges w.e.f. 1.4.1996.

Under the new guidelines, the transportation charges are payable on a flat rate for each State to be fixed on the basis of audited figures of expenditure for previous years.

[Translation]

Import of Life Saving Drugs

2510. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of life saving drugs imported during 1994-96;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to produce these drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The value of bulk drugs and formulations imported during 1994-96 is as under :

(Rs. in crore)

	1994-95	1995-96
Bulk Drugs	811.43	903.93
Formulations	173.02	191.09

(b) In order to encourage the production of drugs/ end products in the country the Government have done away with Industrial Licensing except in a few cases, foreign investment upto 51% and foreign technology agreements are given automatic approvals. Encouragement to R & D and simplification of pricing system are other steps taken by the Government to boost production in the country.

Indian Peoples' Famine Trust

2511. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Peoples' Famine Trust is being Administered by the Government;

(b) if so, the objectives and terms of reference of the Trust;

(c) whether any assistance has been provide to the famine affected regions of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country by the Trust during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a)The Ministry of Agriculture is administering the Indian Peoples' Natural Calamities Trust (IPNCT)' which was formerly known as the Indian Peoples' Famine Trust.

(b) The objectives of the Trust, which is Administered by a Board of Management headed by Agriculture Minister are the following :

(i) providing assistance to victims of natural calamities such as flood, cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, avalanche and hailstrom or any other like calamity, who do not receive any financial assistance from other sources;

(ii) promoting research, study and documentation activities for natural disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and reduction.

(c) and (d) During 1996-97 Rs. 6.00 lakh and Rs. 1.65 lakh were provided to Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala from the Trust for assisting some of the flood victims. No such assistance was provided to States affected by droughts.

(e) Institutional arrangements already exist for providing financial assistance to States for carrying out relief and rehabilitation meassures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. A Calamity Relief Fund with an average annual allocation of Rs. 1260.00 crores and a National Fund for Calamity Relief with an average annual allocation of Rs. 140.00 crores have been constituted for this purpose. The annual income of the IPNCT is too meagre to provide any worthwhile assistance to the victims of the natural calamities.

Forestry Project

2512. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has reviewed the Forestry Project of Andhra Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, the observations and suggestions made by them in this regard;

(c) the amount spent on the project during the first two and third year by the State;

(d) the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be spent; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure completion of the project within the stipulated time?